

local industry and trade: 8

LIVESTOCK

231 There is relatively little livestock in Tepoztlán and most of it is of poor quality.
 [669] The Revolution of 1910-20 saw the destruction of practically all domestic animals
 [454] in Tepoztlán, and present herds have been slowly and painfully acquired since
 then.¹ Tepoztecans, because of their experience during the Revolution, still view
 investment in cattle as precarious, and they invest only as a steppingstone to the
 acquisition of land or as a secondary source of investment. It should be noted,
 [233] however, that cattle raising was never an important industry in Tepoztlán and
 never became well integrated in the local economy. Topographical conditions and
 climate in the municipio are not conducive to large-scale stock raising. The land
 is steep, rocky, and forested; the little level land is used for agriculture. During
 the dry season, which begins in December, pasture becomes progressively scarce
 and by March the cattle are excessively thin. In these months, herds are generally
 reduced by fifteen to twenty per cent.

The care given to cattle is minimal. For the most part, cattle graze on the com-
 munal lands and in the cornfields after the harvest. Only milk cows, plow-oxen,
 and pack mules and horses are given fodder, such as hay or sesame plants, poor
 corn, and sugar cane stalks brought by Tepoztecans who work on near-by haciendas.
 [232] Occasionally they are given salt to keep them "tame," and almost any disease or
 sign of ill health is treated with a mixture of vinegar, lemon, and *sal de niro*. Hoof
 and mouth disease is treated with applications of iodine to the affected parts, a
 cure which Tepoztecans claim gives excellent results.

231 Care of animals in Tepoztlán consists mostly of guarding them against the
 685 danger of being lost or stolen. A great deal of time is spent in watching livestock,
 irrespective of whether the family owns only one or two animals or a herd of
 thirty or forty. Cattle stealing is frequent and is one of the hazards of cattle raising.
 Some families have lost over twenty-five head of cattle in a few years. It is said

¹ Only a few families managed to escape with their animals to southern Guerrero.